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SFRTA AND PALM TRAN HOST FPTA CONFERENCE

More than 300 transportation professionals gathered in West Palm Beach, November 5-8, for the Florida Public Transportation Association's 2007 Conference and Exhibition. The annual event was co-hosted this year by the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority and Palm Tran.

A highlight of the conference was when SFRTA Executive Director Joseph Giulietti was elected to chair the FPTA. As such, he will preside over an organization that supports 28 public transportation agencies across the state.

The SFRTA swept the marketing awards, winning first place in all four categories entered. The dog-themed campaign, "More Trains. More Often." took top honors for print collateral, print advertising and sustaining campaign, with the SFRTA Television spot also taking first prize.

Of special interest, was the display of new vehicles, starting with the SFRTA's Diesel Multiple Unit. Another event feature included a new hybrid electric bus, which can operate on either diesel fuel or electricity.



North American Bus Industries, Inc. showcases their 60-foot, articulated hybrid bus at the FPTA Conference.



Congratulations to SFRTA Executive Director Joseph Giulietti, who was elected to chair the FPTA.

November/December 2006

onboard

The latest news from the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority, a partnership between Broward, Miami-Dade & Palm Beach counties.

DMU ENTERS REVENUE SERVICE AFTER MIAMI-DADE DEMONSTRATION

Vehicles were virtually parked on the Dolphin Expressway (836) in Miami-Dade County during a recent evening rush hour, as a gleaming double-decker train breezed along the highway with not a delay in sight. As drivers stared at the train in disbelief, train passengers, a celebrated gathering of elected officials and county leaders, cheerfully waved to the frustrated commuters.

As the first South Florida demonstration of the self-propelled Diesel Multiple Unit rail car, the trip was the brainchild of Miami-Dade County Commission Chair Joe A. Martinez. According to him, the event "was approximately four-years in the planning stages." The DMU is owned by the Florida Department of Transportation and on loan to the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail for a jointly funded Federal Railroad Administration and FDOT two-year project, demonstrating the DMU technology.

If negotiations between CSX Transportation, the SFRTA and FDOT come to fruition, this DMU technology could operate on what has become known as the "Southwest Corridor." These railroad tracks run parallel to the Dolphin Expressway, passing the Miami International Airport and extending southwest toward the Miami Metrozoo. The demonstration trip covered

approximately four miles of the 15-mile corridor.

"The introduction of the DMU in Miami-Dade County will be very effective in alleviating traffic on some of our most congested roadways. It will also provide additional public transportation to the residents of west and south Miami-Dade County, allowing them to reduce their commuting time and save money on gas," said Chairman Martinez at the ceremonial unveiling of the new transit technology.

In the meantime, the two new cars went into service October 26 on regular Tri-Rail revenue runs. The cars are painted white, green, blue and orange, similar to the signature design scheme of Tri-Rail's locomotives. Passengers will find cloth-upholstered, reclining seats throughout most of the car, as well as large, curved picture windows on the second level. Not



only are the new cars aesthetically pleasing, they are more fuel efficient, meet new Environmental Protection Act standards and operate quietly.

These first two cars will be followed by four more, early next year. The new rolling stock will arrive in time for Tri-Rail to expand its weekday service from 40 to 48 trains, expected in March or April 2007. The DMU demonstration was a collaborative effort of the Miami-Dade County Commission, Office of the Chair, CSX Transportation; FDOT and the SFRTA.

(Continued on next page)

VAGÓN DMU COMIENZA SERVICIO DE COBRO TRAS DEMONSTRACIÓN EN MIAMI-DADE

Los vehículos estaban prácticamente estacionados en el Dolphin Expressway (836) durante la hora pico de una tarde reciente, a medida que un tren de dos pisos realizaba su recorrido paralelo a esa carretera y sin demora alguna. Mientras los frustrados conductores de los automóviles observaban incrédulos al tren y a sus pasajeros, una concurrencia celebre de funcionarios electos y líderes del condado, estos saludaban jovialmente a los frustrados viajeros.

Como la primera demostración en el sur de la Florida del vagón autopropulsado Diesel Unidad Múltiple (DMU), el recorrido fue ideado por el presidente de la Comisión del Condado, Joe A. Martínez. Según él, "las etapas de planificación del evento duraron aproximadamente cuatro años". El vagón DMU es propiedad del Departamento de Transporte de la Florida (FDOT) y ha sido prestado a la Autoridad Regional de Transporte del Sur de la Florida/Tri-Rail (SFRTA) para un proyecto conjuntamente financiado por la Administración Ferroviaria Federal y FDOT, cuya duración es de dos años y que tiene por objetivo poner a prueba la tecnología DMU.

Si las negociaciones entre CSX Transportation, SFRTA y FDOT son fructíferas, ese tipo de tecnología DMU podría operar en lo que se ha llegado a conocer como el "Corredor Sudoeste". Las vías férreas en cuestión corren en dirección paralela al Dolphin Expressway, pasan el Aeropuerto Internacional de Miami, y se extienden hacia el sudeste hasta el Metrozoo de Miami. El recorrido de demostración cubrió aproximadamente 4 de las 15 millas del corredor.

"La introducción del vagón DMU en el condado de Miami-Dade constituirá una medida muy eficaz para aliviar el tráfico en algunas de nuestras carreteras más congestionadas. Además, proporcionaría transporte público adicional para los residentes de las zonas occidentales y sureñas del condado de Miami-Dade, lo cual les permitirá reducir el tiempo de los viajes desde el trabajo a la casa y viceversa, así como realizar ahorros en la gasolina", afirmó el presidente Martínez en la ceremonia inaugural de la nueva tecnología de tránsito.

Entretanto, el 26 de octubre dos de los nuevos vagones se añadieron al servicio

regular de cobro de Tri-Rail. Los vagones están pintados de blanco, verde, azul y anaranjado, similar al esquema de diseño distintivo de las locomotoras de Tri-Rail. Los pasajeros encontrarán asientos reclinables revestidos de tela a lo largo del vagón, así como grandes ventanales ovalados en el segundo piso. Los nuevos vagones no sólo son estéticamente atractivos, sino también son más eficientes al quemar combustible, se rigen a los estándares de la nueva Ley de Protección al Medio Ambiente, y operan a un volumen de ruido discreto.

A inicios del año entrante, se agregarán cuatro vagones adicionales al servicio regular. Dichos vagones llegarán a tiempo para que Tri-Rail expanda su servicio en los días de entre semana de 40 a 48 trenes, a más tardar en marzo o abril de 2007. La demostración del vagón DMU fue un esfuerzo llevado a cabo con la colaboración de la Comisión del Condado de Miami-Dade, Oficina del Presidente, CSX Transportation, FDOT y SFRTA.

DMU KÒMANSE SÈVIS PEYAN LI APRE LI FIN FÈ YON DEMONSTRASYON NAN MIAMI-DADE

Sete tankou si machin yo te fin pake nèt sou Dolphin Express Way la (836) nan Miami-Dade County tou lòt jou a pandan yon anbouteuyaj "rush hour", alòske yon tren doukabin tou klere tap file akote otowout la san obstak devan l. Pandan chofè yo tap gade tren a pase tou dekoraje, pasaje tren yo yomenim, yon rasanalaj plizyè fonksyonè eli ak lidè county kap selebre, tap griyen dan epi fè alo pou vwayajè tou fristre yo.

Premye demonstrasyon tren oto-pwopilse Inite Miltip Dyezèl la se lide Miami-Dade Prezian Komisyón County Joe A. Martinez. Selon limenm, demonstasyon sila a te nan

stad planifikasyon depi kat lane. DMU a se pwopriete Depatman Transpò Eta Florid (FDOT) epi Otorite Transpò Rejyonal nan Sid Eta Florid (SFRTA)/Tri-Rail ap prete li, pou yon pwojè dezan ki finanse pa toude organizaçon Administrasyon Sistèm Ferovè a ak FDOT pou montre teknologi DMU a. Si negosyasyon ant CSX Transportation, SFRTA, ak FDOT bay fwi, kalite teknologi DMU sa a ta kapab opere nan zòn yo vin rele "Koridò Sidwès" la. Ray tren sila yo paralè ak Dolphin Express Way la, li depase Aewopò Entènasyonal Miami epi kontinye nan sidwès nan direksyon Miami Metro Zoo. Demonstrasyon a te kouvri 4 miles sou 15 miles ki fè "Koridò" la.

Prezidan Martínez te di nan seremoni demonstrasyon teknologi sikilasyon, "entwidiksyon DMU a nan Miami-Dade County ap efikas anpil pou fè sikilasyon nan wout ki pi konjestyone ale miyò. Epitou, lap ofri piplis transpò publik bay rezidan wès ak sid Miami-Dade County, epi sa va pèmet yo redwi tan deplasman epi ekonomize lajan gasoline".

Pandan tan sila a, de nouvo tren yo pran sèvis le 26 Oktòb sou pakou regilye peyan Tri-Rail yo. Vagon yo pentire an blan, vèt, ble, ak oranž, tankou desen ki sou train Tri-Rail yo. Pasaje va jwenn chèz ki kouvri ak tisi epi ki kapab baskile nan prèske tout vagon a, epitou de fenèt bien laj nan dezyèm etaj la. Non sèlman nouvo tren yo bèl, yo konsome mwens gaz, atenn nouvo estanda Lalwa sou Pwoteksyon Anviwònman a, epi li pa fè bwi.

Kat lot tren ap swiv de premye yo an nan kòmansman ane pwochenn. Nouvo stock la ap rive atan pou Tri-Rail kapab ogmante sèvis lasemenn lan de soti 40 rive 48 tren, previ pou mas osnon avril 2007.

Demonstrasyon DMU a te yon gwo zefò kolaborasyon ant Komisyón Miami-Dade County, Biwo Prezidan a; CSX Transportation; FDOT ak SFRTA.



MERCY AND MEMORIAL REGIONAL HOSPITALS SUPPORT COMMUTING ON PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Mercy and Memorial Regional hospitals are two excellent examples of companies that have taken great strides to make commuting on public transportation more efficient and attractive for their employees.

Mercy Hospital recently decided to remove an employee parking garage to allow for hospital expansion, but they didn't want to leave their employees to fend for themselves. Hospital officials decided to pay a significant part of the cost of a Tri-Rail ticket and they offered similar pre-tax subsidies to those employees who use Miami-Dade Transit, vanpools and carpools.

In a few short months, they already have more than 200 people signed up for the program. Mercy Hospital officials have even gone so far as to provide a company shuttle to transport staff between the hospital and Metrorail's Vizcaya Station.

The Memorial Regional Hospital staff has also been dealing with parking issues of their own. Employees have been required to park offsite, due to the heavy demand on hospital parking. Between limited parking and the rising cost of gasoline, hospital administrators began looking at alternative solutions for their staff.

They decided to create a partnership with the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail to provide their employees with public transportation that is both efficient and economical. Memorial Regional Hospital authorized the funding of a new employee shuttle service, which began operating on October 30 and transports passengers between the hospital and Tri-Rail's Sheridan Street Station. As a further enticement to try the train, the hospital gives employees who commute on Tri-Rail a free daily lunch from the hospital cafeteria.



Memorial Regional Hospital employees, including Security Manager Gary Reiss, HR Administrator Nelda Marriott and Director of Security John Nelson, were instrumental in facilitating and implementing the new shuttle service, along with Dr. Lorrie Jones (not pictured).



TAKE THE TRAIN TO THE PLANE

This time of year, everyone appreciates saving time and money. The only thing worse than the stress of driving around an airport lot trying to find an empty space, is the daily cost of parking, once you do. Tri-Rail offers the affordable solution to your holiday travel needs.

Trains to the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International and Miami International airports are met by direct shuttle buses that reach the airport terminals in about five minutes. Additionally, Palm Tran's Route 50 transports Tri-Rail's West Palm Beach Station passengers to the Palm Beach International Airport. Weekend and holiday fares start as low as \$2 and include a free transfer to the airport.

Passengers are reminded to take only as much luggage as they can load onto the train in one trip, usually one suitcase and a carry on. Excessive baggage can cause train delays and overcrowding in the aisles. Passengers should also remember to stow their baggage on the luggage racks provided, in order to free up seats for other riders.



YOUR ONE-STOP SHOP FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Looking for the perfect gift for a rail fan of any age? Look no further than the South Florida Regional Transportation Authority/Tri-Rail E-Store. Model trains, shirts, engineer hats for kids, umbrellas, tote bags and the first-ever commemorative SFRTA ornament are all available just by logging onto www.tri-rail.com. Your purchases will be mailed to you in time for the holidays if ordered by Friday, December 8. Last-minute purchases can be arranged by calling 954-788-7929 no later than December 22.

